

Lewis & Clark • Accounting for the Missing • The Sleep Factor

The Official U.S. Army Magazine

October 2003
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Soldiers

Space
Soldiers





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COL Patrick Forrester, seen here during an August 2001 space walk, is one of several soldier-astronauts.
— NASA photo

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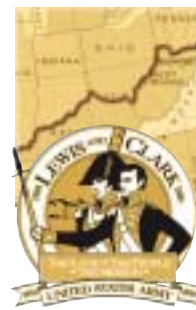
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At press time, violence continued in Iraq even as U.S. and coalition forces continued to rebuild the nation devastated by decades of Ba'ath regime rule.

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When a soldier goes AWOL or deserts, he is only setting himself up for failure down the road.

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Sleep deprivation has always been a factor in military operations, and the Army won't rest until it understands the problem and its solution.

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Here's what you need to know about the Enlisted Records and Evaluation Center.

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The Common Access Card is coming for all soldiers, civilians and contract employees.

The cover of this month's *Soldiers* features Army astronaut COL Patrick Forrester. Although most people believe astronauts are products of our sister services, the Army has had plenty of officers with the right stuff who are a vital part of NASA's astronaut program. For a look at how soldiers are supporting the nation's space effort, check out Beth Reece's report from Houston's Johnson Space Center, "Army Astronauts."

For many soldiers, the mechanics behind military personnel records are a complete mystery. Changes are initiated at the unit "PAC" and somewhere down the road they end up magically in the soldier's official records. In "Inside EREC" SFC Lisa Gregory reveals everything you ever wanted to know about the records

process as she takes you on a tour of the Enlisted Records and Evaluation Center in Indianapolis, Ind.

Finally, this month marks the creation of the Joint POW/MIA Command. In "Accounting for the Missing," *Soldiers* veteran correspondent Steve Harding shows us how the Army and Department of Defense have joined forces to better locate and identify missing service members.

John E. Suttle
John E. Suttle
Editor in Chief



Soldiers

The Official U.S. Army Magazine

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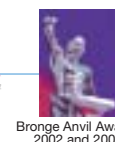
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Soldiers

Recipient of Awards of Magazine Excellence





GEN Peter J. Schoomaker was sworn in as the 35th chief of staff of the Army during an Aug. 1 Pentagon ceremony. The following are his remarks upon assuming his new position.

Arrival Message

This afternoon I stood in the office of the Secretary of the Army and was sworn in as the 35th Chief of Staff of the Army. Thirty-four other distinguished leaders have preceded me — well-known stewards of our Army. It is a great honor to walk in their footsteps.

Twenty-three years ago I stood in another place — in the Iranian desert on a moonlit night at a place called Desert One. I keep a photo of the carnage that night to remind me that we should never confuse enthusiasm with capability. Eight of my comrades lost their lives. Those of us who survived knew grief ... we knew failure...but we committed ourselves to a different future.

There were some important things we did not know about the future that night. We did not recognize that this was a watershed event ... that the military services would begin a great period of renewal that continues to this day. We did not know that we were at the start of an unprecedented movement to jointness in every aspect of our military culture, structure, and operations ... a movement that must continue. We also did not realize that we were in one of the opening engagements of this country's long struggle against terrorism ... a struggle that would reach our homeland and become known as the Global War on Terror.

Today, our Nation is at war and we are a critical part of the joint team — an Army at war. This is not a new war. Our enemies have been waging it for some time, and it will continue for the

foreseeable future. As the President has stated, "This is a different kind of war against a different kind of enemy." It is a war we must win, a war for our very way of life.

War is both a physical reality and a state of mind. War is ambiguous, uncertain, and unfair. When we are at war, we must think and act differently. We become more flexible and more adaptable. We must anticipate the ultimate reality check — combat. We must win both the war and the peace. We must be prepared to question everything. What is best for the Nation? What must endure? What must change?

This war has demonstrated that our Soldiers, civilians, and families are up to the task. It has also provided new insights into the current operating environment. Can we sustain our high performance with our current methods of preparation? Can our Combat Training Centers better reflect the joint context in which we will fight? Are we organized for the long haul? We must answer these questions and more. We need to be mindful that the world has changed and it will never return to what we knew before. As my great friend, Dick Meadows, always said, "The Army ain't like it used to be ... and it never was."

Sustained engagement of our Army will be the norm, not the exception. How do we man the Army in a way that provides cohesive, high performing units in this reality of continuous engagement?

Our recent combat operations reinforce the requirements for units and echelons that are flexible and tailorable. Can we balance our force structure and develop increased modularity so as to enhance our critical role in effective joint contingency operations while maintaining our campaign qualities?

We have already shown that we have innovative and adaptive leaders. But our enemies are adapting as well. Will our development programs continue to produce leaders who can meet this challenge?

Leadership and courage are easily recognized as prerequisites at the tactical level, but they are essential at the operational and strategic levels as well. Are we developing the George C. Marshalls for the new era?

The National Guard and Army Reserve are indispensable, full

members of the team. Do we have the proper mix of both active and reserve units? Are we properly balanced? Is all of our structure readily accessible to meet the requirements of this and future wars?

As we transform the Army from the current force to the future force we must ask these questions and more. While some things will change, others will not.

The American Soldier remains indispensable. Our Soldiers are paramount and will remain the centerpiece of our thinking, our systems, and our combat formations. As General Creighton Abrams taught us, "People are not in the Army, they are the Army."

We are, have been, and will remain a values based institution. Our values will not change and they are non-negotiable. Our Soldiers are Warriors of character. They exemplify these values every day and are the epitome of our American spirit. They are the heart of the Army.

As long as the United States Army has existed we have transformed...and we always will. For four years under General Shinseki our Army has asked hard questions and made tough choices. We will continue to go where the answers to those questions take us. Our azimuth to the future is good. The Army must remain relevant and ready.

Our Army has much to be proud of. It is the preeminent land force in the world — and continues to be respected by our friends ... and feared by our enemies. We set the standard. We were part of the joint team that defeated the Taliban in Afghanistan and took down a brutal regime in Iraq. Today we are deployed and conducting contingency operations at an unprecedented pace. Our Soldiers, civilians, and their families set the standard every day for selfless service.

The Army continues to serve our great Nation well and faithfully as it has in the past. For more than 228 years, the Army has never failed the American people, and it never will.

As an American Soldier, I have never left your ranks; but it is a great privilege to wear our uniform once again.

Look for an in-depth interview with GEN Schoomaker in an upcoming issue.

UPDATE IRAQ

Story by Heike Hasenauer

AS summer drew to a close, tensions mounted for coalition forces in Iraq. On Aug. 19 the worst single tragedy, to that date, occurred there since President George W. Bush declared an end to combat operations May 1.

The United Nations headquarters in Baghdad, located in the Canal Hotel, was bombed during a meeting attended by numerous representatives of nongovernmental-aid organizations. Among the 23 people killed was

Sergio Vieira de Mello, the U.N.'s highest-ranking official in Iraq. The following day more than 80 Shi'ite Muslims were killed by a car bomb while worshipping in a Baghdad mosque.

Disaster also struck in Afghanistan, where nine policemen were killed in an ambush. Afghan officials reported that some 100 people had been killed over a 10-day period in late August. They blamed the Taliban.

As Americans voiced concerns that the U.S. military was spread too thin,

Bush vowed that the several hundred marines sent to Liberia to quell unrest resulting from 14 years of civil war, would redeploy from the African nation by Oct. 1. At that time, he said, U.N. peacekeepers and security forces from neighboring African nations would have arrived.

The new U.S. military intervention came at about the same time U.S. intelligence reports indicated terrorist factions had attempted to procure shoulder-fired missiles in the United States to down U.S. airliners. America's leaders, and U.S. military officials on the ground in Iraq, nonetheless remained optimistic.

LTC Brian Drinkwine, commander of the 82nd Airborne Division's 1st Battalion, 505th Infantry Regiment, said of his soldiers after the U.N. headquarters bombing: "Their resolve motivates me."

"The civilized world will not be intimidated," Bush said. At the same time, he reminded the Iraqi people that the villains who perpetrate senseless acts of terrorism are their enemies.

Officials in Moscow called the suicide bombing, which was carried out by a man in a flatbed truck loaded



◀ L. Paul Bremer III, U.S. chief administrator in Iraq, speaks with reporters after holding a conference at Mosul's Civilian Military Operations Center.

SFC Derek Gaines



SGT Michael Bracken

A tear gas canister explodes near Mosul's city hall while 101st Abn. Div. soldiers are dispersing a violent crowd of protesters.

with explosives, "barbaric."

The string of tragedies overshadowed the coalition's triumphs of mid-August and September. As examples, U.S. Central Command reported the capture of Ali Hassan Majeed, a scientist in the former Saddam regime who earned the nickname "Chemical Ali," for overseeing chemical weapons attacks that killed thousands of Iraq's Kurds. And Kurdish troops had

captured one of Saddam's former vice presidents, Taha Yassin Ramadan, in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul and turned him over to coalition forces.

And a few weeks earlier, Saddam's brutal sons Uday and Qusay were killed in a fierce battle with 101st Abn. Div. soldiers and special-operations

forces in northern Iraq.

Countless humanitarian-aid missions were conducted as well, and included food distribution, refurbishment of hospitals and schools, and restoration of water and oil pipelines.

Coalition forces had worked for weeks to improve Iraq's long-neglected infrastructure and get resources up and running again. But just as they did, saboteurs destroyed them.

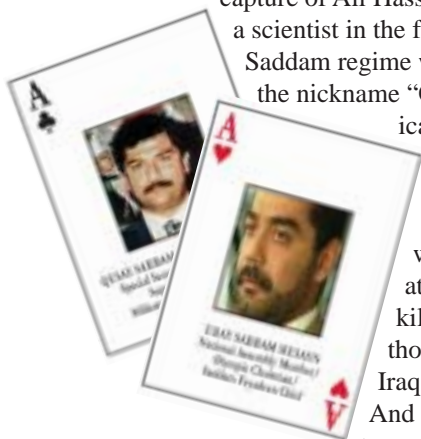
Military officials said the saboteurs' goal is to create increasing dissent among the Iraqi people, so that the supportive majority will eventually lose faith and patience with coalition

forces and rally against them.

CENTCOM officials took turns sitting on the "hot seat," trying to explain to the world at large why soldiers and civilians who are working so diligently to help the Iraqi people are being attacked.

Within four months after Bush declared an end to major combat operations in Iraq, assailants wielding rocket-propelled grenades and using remote-controlled bombs had killed 60 U.S. soldiers.

Ambassador L. Paul Bremer III, chief U.S. administrator in Iraq, said the attackers were believed to be



SGT Michael Bracken

➤ Trained by the West Virginia Army National Guard's 156th Military Police Detachment, members of the first class of the Mosul Interim Police Academy end their graduation ceremony by taking an oath to protect and serve Iraq's citizens.



Soldiers from the 3rd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, question a male Iraqi at a checkpoint established during a search for two motorcyclists who had been terrorizing several Mosul neighborhoods and the local police station.

among remnants of Saddam Hussein's security forces, Fedayeen fighters, and former Iraqi POWs who had been released by coalition forces when the war ended.

Shortages of basic needs, including electricity, had for months aggravated the attacks against coalition forces, CENTCOM officials said.

News reports quoted many Iraqis as saying Iraq was no better off than it had been before coalition forces arrived. They blamed the coalition for post-war looting and other criminal activity, including drug- and arms-smuggling that they said had not existed before.

A group calling itself the Armed

Islamic Movement for al Qaeda — in an audiotape aired on Al-Arabiya television — claimed responsibility for some of the attacks. A day before the U.N. headquarters bombing in Baghdad, a tape believed to have been made by members of al Qaeda had urged Iraqis to carry out attacks.

"We have to counsel patience," Bremer said. "It's a difficult message for Iraqis to hear. But when you have 35 years of economic mismanagement, as this country had under Saddam Hussein and the Ba'ath Party, you can't fix those problems in three weeks or three months."

U.S. officials remained confident that the senseless attacks against U.S. and coalition soldiers would subside as



◀ Soldiers from the 101st Abn. Div. search for a man who lobbed a grenade at them while they were dispersing protesters in Mosul.



U.S. officials remained confident that the senseless attacks against U.S. and coalition soldiers would subside.

additional members of the former regime were identified and brought to justice. The July 22 deaths of Saddam's sons were expected to have a long-term positive effect.

For Iraqis once terrorized by the mere thought of what the Saddam regime could do to those who didn't support it, the possibility that the ousted dictator and his sons might still be alive had instilled fear about cooperating with coalition forces. U.S. officials predicted that with the sons' deaths, fears of future brutality from Saddam's successors would subside.

While some Iraqis who collaborated with coalition forces were still being threatened, hundreds of them volunteered to join the new Iraqi

police force in August, to help bring stability and security to their communities, CENTCOM officials reported.

And officials of the Coalition Provisional Authority, or CPA, reported that production of refined oil products — gasoline, diesel and cooking gas — was rising.

BG Frank Helmick, 101st Abn. Div. assistant division commander for operations, said that while Iraq has only half of the electrical power it needs, coalition officials and the CPA are working on solutions.

Among those are buying power from Turkey and Syria, seeking donations of large power plants from humanitarian-assistance organizations and rehabilitating existing plants.



Soldiers from the Army Reserve's 418th Civil Affairs Battalion, attached to the 4th Infantry Division during Operation Iraqi Freedom, deliver water to villagers in Diyala Province.

SSG Alfred Davis



Among Iraq's postwar milestones is its political transformation, Bremer told attendees at the World Economic Forum. Iraq's political council will "nominate ministry heads and form commissions to recommend policies concerning issues significant to Iraq's future, from reform of the educational curriculum to plans for a telecommunications infrastructure to proposals for stimulating the private sector."

Among the most notable changes for U.S. soldiers in Iraq over the summer was news that some of them were going home.

Among those scheduled to redeploy were soldiers of the 3rd

◀ Members of the Army Reserve's 422nd CA Bn. share smiles with local Iraqis after restoring power to the Yusufijah area.

▼ LTC David Jones of the 354th CA Brigade watches as Iraqi workers load food, as well as cooking and cleaning supplies, at a World Food Programs storage site in Baghdad.





Among the most notable changes for U.S. soldiers in Iraq over the summer was news that some of them were going home.

Infantry Div. who had been in Al Fallujah, a hotbed of opposition about 30 miles west of Baghdad, helping to train that city's police force in July. They had been among the first U.S. troops into the Persian Gulf region before Operation Iraqi Freedom began.

Many of the 3rd Inf. Div. soldiers drew satisfaction from knowing that Iraqis had joined neighborhood-watch groups to make neighborhoods safer. Residents had joined district advisory councils as a step toward improved civil societies. And, under a free Iraqi press, more than 100 Iraqi newspapers had been established, Bremer said.

At Qayyarah West Airfield, near Mosul, soldiers of the 101st Aviation Regiment had been delivering truck-loads of water to villagers and surfacing dirt roads. And they had plans to build or renovate schools and construct a water pipeline.

Coalition forces also started civil-affairs projects in various areas of Iraq, among them completion of a bridge across the Tigris River.

➤ SGT Jay Maples of the 422nd CA Bn. guards a newly built pedestrian bridge in Yusufiyah.

CPL Jacob H. Smith





- ▲ Civil affairs soldiers uncover a cache of Russian-made surface-to-air missiles in downtown Baghdad.
- Weapons caches continue to be found throughout Iraq.

In August COL Michael Linnington, commander of the 101st's 3rd Bde., said the division had completed renovations estimated at \$11 million. Those included repair of banks, schools, police stations, hospitals, clinics, courthouses and telecommunications sites.

And the coalition forces' highly publicized, if controversial, early morning raids on Iraqi homes and other buildings were not without positive results.

When soldiers of the 82nd Abn. Div., 1st Armored Div. and 315th Psychological Operations Company searched a building and grounds of the former Ba'ath Party in Baghdad, they retrieved a sizeable illegal weapons cache, CENTCOM officials reported. It was one of many such raids.



Cpl. Mace M. Gratz, USMC

The operations were conducted to reduce crime and make the streets safe for residents and U.S. and coalition forces, officials said.

In response to media queries about the safety of U.S. and coalition forces, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said 30,000 of the estimated 60,000 Iraqi police officers needed to maintain order were on the job.

And, as far as what's going on in the hearts and minds of U.S. and coalition forces — TV viewers can only guess. The morale of U.S.

soldiers is high, Linnington told reporters at a video teleconference from Iraq in August.

"Our soldiers remain motivated, I believe, because they understand the importance of this mission and are driven by the knowledge that if we don't win here, we could relive the horrors of Sept. 11," he said.

As this issue went to press some 140,000 U.S. troops and 24,000 coalition troops from 18 nations were deployed in Iraq, according to CENTCOM officials. 🇺🇸



"Our soldiers remain motivated, I believe, because they understand the importance of this mission..."

► COL Michael S. Linnington, commander of the 101st Airborne's 3rd Brigade, cuts a ceremonial cake during the reopening ceremony of a medical treatment center in Tall' Afar.

▼ Soldiers from the 101st and Iraqi citizens celebrate the reopening of Rebea's train station on the Syrian and Iraqi border.



SSG Kevin Wastler (both)





Iraq

SPC Ivan Miller of the Fort Campbell, Ky.-based 101st Airborne Division's 3rd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, keeps watch at a traffic control point during a convoy in Mosul.

— Photo by SSG Kevin Wastler



Bosnia

SPC Phillip Weaver (left), SGT Matthew Barnes and SPC Jennifer Wolf plot coordinates on a map during land-navigation training in preparation for the Primary Leadership Development Course. All three were scheduled for PLDC during their rotation to Bosnia.

— Photo by SFC Ronald D. Covington



Kosovo

PFC John Stillwell, a 28th Infantry Div. medic, checks the pulse of a local Serbian girl during a medical civilian-assistance program visit.

— Photo by SPFC Jason Phillips



◀ Iraq

SPC Dan Williams of the Fort Hood, Texas-based 411th Military Police Co. provides security outside a home during a raid in a village near Tikrit.

— Photo by PFC Jason Phillips

▼ Afghanistan

1LT Tammy Stephenson of the 719th Medical Detachment administers medicine to a horse during a Combined Medical Assistance program mission in the Zurmat. CMA is a program in which U.S. service members give medical treatment to the local Afghans and their livestock.

— Photo by SPC Kelly Burkhart



Space Soldiers

Story by Beth Reece Photos courtesy NASA

NINE-year-old Douglas Wheelock watched in awe as the first man landed on the moon. “Every boy in America wanted to be an astronaut, but I was just a regular kid living in a small town. I never believed it was something I could attain,” he remembers.

Today, LTC Douglas Wheelock awaits his first trip into space. He is one of six Army astronauts assigned to the U.S. Army Space and Missile Command’s NASA Detachment at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas.

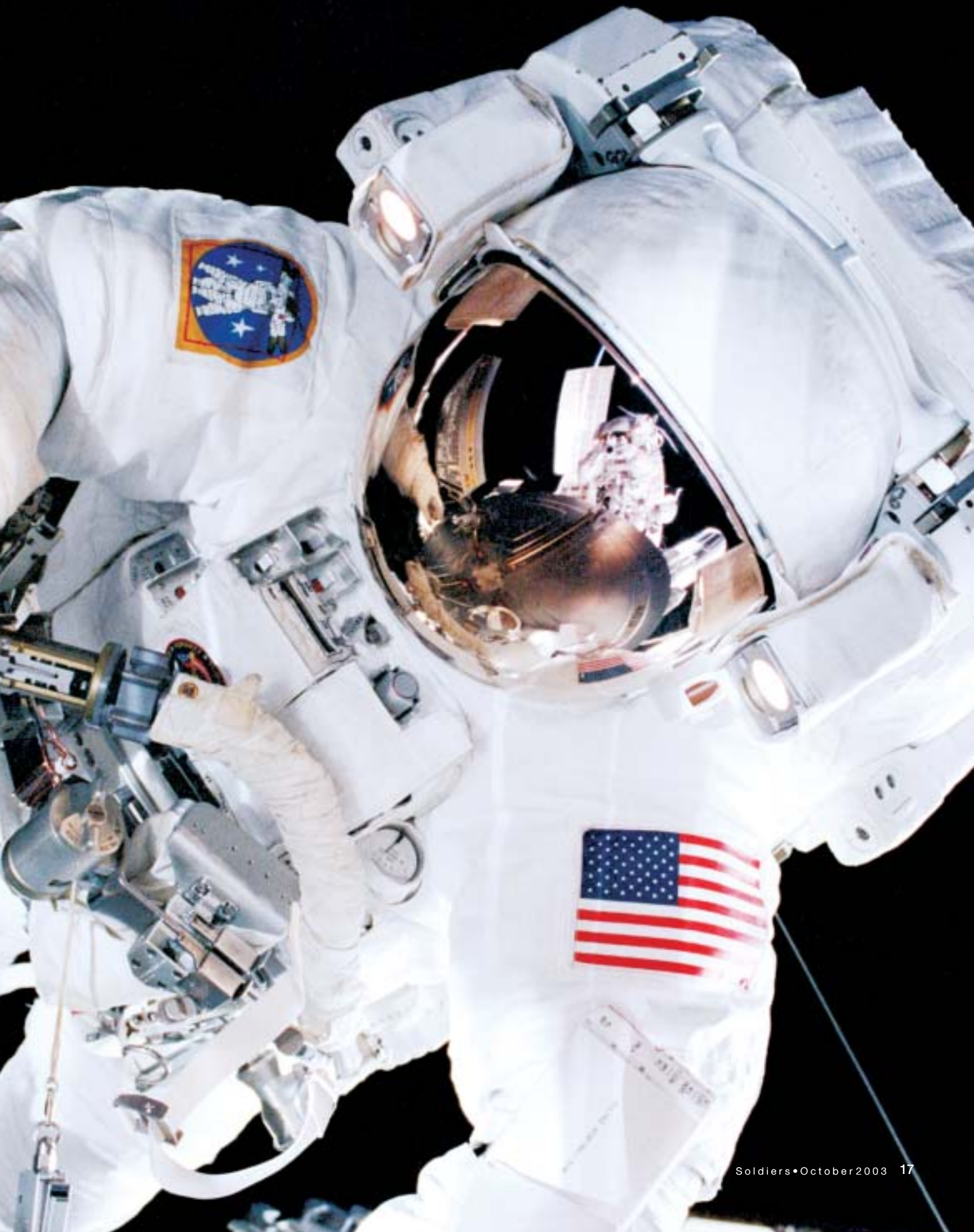
Sending soldiers to outer space may seem an unusual mission for an army that does most of its business on the ground, but space is the Army’s “high ground.” Discoveries made there help soldiers move and communicate on earth, Wheelock said.



◀ Army astronaut COL Patrick G. Forrester prepares for an emergency egress training session at the Neutral Buoyancy Laboratory.

▶ Forrester took a space walk while working on the International Space Station during mission STS-105.







Army astronaut LTC Timothy J. Creamer hands a shuttle patch to an audience participant during a visit to Mark Twain Elementary School in Colorado Springs, Colo.

LTC Jeffrey Williams is the first Army officer scheduled to command the space station.

Satellite technology, for example, was used to project troops to the battle in Operation Iraqi Freedom.



History in the Making

Army astronauts share a role with 15 other nations in constructing the International Space Station, the largest space experiment ever. By 2004 soldier-astronauts will have helped build and maintain 460 tons of structures, modules, equipment and supplies in orbit.

The ISS is mankind's next step to the solar system, said COL Patrick Forrester, commander of the NASA detachment and the Army's senior astronaut. Like a field site where soldiers prepare for battle, it lets astronauts study the affects of life in space before venturing back to the moon or heading for Mars.

"Before we go out to explore the solar system, we need to learn how to operate in space, adapt the human body to space flight and overcome the hazards of going to space for huge periods of time," Forrester said.

The ISS is expected to stretch 17 stories tall and house six research labs by its completion in 2008.

COL Nancy Currie was part of the STS-88 *Endeavour* crew that turned on the lights at the ISS in December 1998. During the 12-day mission she operated the shuttle's 50-foot robotic arm to mate the station's first two segments — one American-made, one Russian-made.

"My most vivid memory of that flight was having the commander pick up the microphone and say, 'Houston, this is the International Space Station' for the very first time. I had to pinch myself," she said. "It was a dream come true."

COL Jeffrey Williams, who flew on *Atlantis*, is the first Army officer scheduled to command the ISS. Currently training on the Russian segment of the ISS at the Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Center in Moscow, Williams predicts his flight will take place in three years and his stay at the ISS will last six months.



Everyday Business

Most Army astronauts can count on one hand their number of trips to space. Their job is a mix of public appearances, training on new equipment, and specialization training on high-tech systems they would use aboard the ISS and space shuttle. They spend 18 months learning systems before bearing technical roles that range from computer engineering to robotics.

The challenge is not in learning single systems, the Army astronauts said, but understanding how systems work together and how a failure in one system may affect another. And because the amount of equipment that can be carried aboard the shuttle is limited, astronauts must know how to repair rather than replace many of the parts.

Astronauts awaiting flight assignment work up to their



Astronaut Jeffrey N. Williams occupies the commander's station on STS-101 (*left*) and uses a handrail on the ISS during a space walk (*above*).

future roles by supporting crews that are training for scheduled missions. LTC Timothy Creamer supported a 2001 space shuttle mission, helping coordinate schedules and plan training.

"Probably the most intense period was leading up to the launch. Even though we were working 24 hours a day, it seemed liked 36," Creamer said.

Wheelock currently works in the Mission Control Center as a spacecraft communicator, making him the sole link between crews in orbit and ground support.

"It's a wonderful place to learn. It prepares you for space flight because you grow to understand the day-to-day opera-



Army astronaut LTC Timothy L. Kopra enjoys nearly 30 seconds of weightlessness on board a NASA KC-125A aircraft as part of astronaut training.



COL Nancy J. Currie, STS-109 mission specialist, occupies the pilot's position on the shuttle Columbia (*left*) and uses the remote manipulator arm (*above*).

tions, especially for the space station, where we're always trouble shooting on systems, subsystems and science experiments," Wheelock said.



A Walk in Space

Astronauts scheduled for space flight get advanced, mission-specific training. For every hour of extravehicular activity — or space walking — they spend 10 rehearsing underwater in an ISS mockup.

Astronauts are dropped into the training pool wearing space suits, then loaded with weights and floats for buoyancy. They practice making repairs, maintaining equipment and adding new structures to the station.

"Space walk is the ultimate," said Forrester. "Like looking out of your house, you can only see so much from the window. When you go out on a space walk, all of a sudden there are no constraints and you can see the entire

curvature of Earth."



Humans vs. Robots

Williams dreams the next generation will explore Mars. "There's something in our nature that seeks to discover beyond what we know and to explore what's over the horizon," he said.

But some scientists predict that robots, not humans, will explore the far reaches of space. Currie, who is an engineering director with advanced robotics systems, said that while the United States might become the world's expert in human-robotic interaction, she believes we're 50 years from sending only robots to space.

"I could program a robot to reach out autonomously and grab a water bottle, but the robot wouldn't know that you like water or that's what you wanted to drink," she said.

Such judgment is a quantum leap away, she said. So is

spontaneity.

"I've been surprised more than once by things that didn't go according to our plan," Currie added. "NASA is very good at reacting to that, and I think it's probably one of the things we do best. But I believe one of the reasons we're good at it is because we're human beings interacting with one another."

For every application Currie applies to robots, she considers the potential benefits for soldiers on the battlefield.

"You wouldn't send a robot out to do surgery," she said, "but could you send it into a chemical area to retrieve wounded soldiers? Absolutely."



Ride of a Lifetime

No amusement ride compares to a ride in space, Currie said.

"The first two minutes is just shake, rattle and roll. There's no doubt in your mind that you're sitting on a rocket. Then it's just a smooth and gradual acceleration to maximum velocity," she said in her description of takeoff.

She's been told that as soon as the shuttle hits zero gravity a permanent smile crosses her face. Most astronauts experience nausea and headaches in space, but Currie doesn't experience side effects until returning to Earth.

Forrester, who is assigned to travel aboard STS-117 around 2004, emphasizes an irony of space flight.

"We spend our whole lives as astronauts trying to get to space," he said. "But once we're in space, we spend all our free time looking back at Earth."



▲ The ISS was photographed by one of the astronauts aboard *Discovery* on Aug. 20, 2001.

► The space shuttle *Discovery* lifts off on mission STS-105, carrying Army astronaut Patrick Forrester.



Thanks to the Army

Without the Army, their hopes of exploring space would still be dreams, the astronauts said. They feel indebted, and use every public appearance to boast about the opportunities the Army presents.

Space was off limits to women when Currie's interest in aeronautics piqued. So she became an Army pilot and waited for the day NASA would begin accepting female astronauts.

Currently the Army's most experienced astronaut, Currie has been to space four times. During the first trip she was a single parent of a 6-year-old daughter left behind with friends and a letter explaining why she'd taken the risks of space flight, just in case.

"I just cannot believe that I've had these opportunities," she said. "I do not believe I'd be here without the Army." 🇺🇸



Boots + Bombs

Story by Heather Boyne

Editor's note: *U.S. Total Army Personnel Command officials in Alexandria, Va., recently reported that, Armywide, 3,800 soldiers became deserters in 2002, after they were absent without leave from their units for 30 days or longer. Of those, 3,275 returned to the Army "under military control."*

PERSCOM officials said, too, that the number of soldiers who go AWOL could be considerably higher, because the cases of soldiers who are AWOL less than 30 days are not included in the statistics.

FAILURE to adapt to the military environment, family problems, difficulty dealing with people and maintaining relationships, and loneliness and immaturity are some of the reasons why soldiers choose to desert the military, said Dr. G. Scott Middleton, a clinical psychologist at Womack Army Hospital at Fort Bragg, N.C.

Most soldiers who go AWOL are between the ages of 18 and 25, Middleton said.

"There's a reason why young soldiers are most prone to flee. An individual in his early 20s experiences what is known as a 'transition period,' or a time when he's trying to transition to becoming an adult," he said.

Going AWOL isn't necessarily an act of cowardice, but an action taken to correct what appears to be a mistake, that being that joining the Army wasn't the right thing for the individual to do, Middleton added.

"We need to better explain to young soldiers what it means to be in the military and introduce them to military culture," Middleton said. "Running away is the last course of action they should take."

Financial problems, fear of being deployed and homesickness are also reasons that contribute to going AWOL, Middleton said.

But soldiers should seek help from their chains of command if going AWOL is something they're considering, said CPT George Imorde, commander of the 82nd Airborne Division Replacement Detachment.

Soldiers should also speak to chaplains, post counselors and psychologists from post mental-health clinics and family support groups before making the choice to run away from a problem, Imorde added.

Heather Boyne works at the 82nd Airborne Division's Public Affairs Office.

The punishments for going AWOL not only affect the soldier's future military career, but also his life in the civilian sector.

"Don't think that all your options are over," Imorde said. "There will be someone who understands your problem. Going AWOL has never solved any problems; it has just added to them."

"From a military-justice standpoint, AWOL and desertion are among the more complicated offenses because the maximum punishments change, depending on such variables as how long the soldier was absent, whether he came back voluntarily and why he went AWOL in the first place," said MAJ Steve Cullen, the 82nd Abn. Div. chief justice.

For example, the punishment for the smallest offense, "failure to go to appointed place of duty," such as missing physical training, can result in forfeiture of two-thirds pay and confinement for one month.

The punishment for desertion can result in a dishonorable discharge, forfeiture of all pay and allowances and confinement for five years.

Soldiers are considered deserters when they remain AWOL for more than 30 days. When soldiers return to military control, they are usually charged with desertion and can be court-martialed for the offense.

The punishments for going AWOL not only affect the soldier's future military career, but also his life in the civilian sector.

The other-than-honorable discharge can result in prejudice against the soldier in the future, such as during job searches and in social settings, Cullen said.

Many military benefits are lost following an AWOL conviction, Cullen added. The soldier can expect difficulty getting accepted into colleges and universities. And many employers won't hire a former soldier who has an OTH discharge.

"What soldiers don't realize is that they are better off serving out their terms, receiving college benefits and starting off fresh in the civilian world," said SSG Sean M. Benge, a platoon sergeant with the 82nd Replacement Det.

Several soldiers who have gone AWOL agree it was the wrong choice.

"If you have problems and are thinking about going AWOL, you should talk to someone, because it's not worth the trouble you get yourself into," said a soldier who had gone AWOL for approximately 30 days and is now doing post details until he returns to civilian life.

Another soldier, who returned to active duty in the Army after being AWOL for three years, said that he made the decision to leave the military because of family problems that seemed insurmountable.

In the end, he believed he had made the wrong decision and advised other soldiers to think hard about what they are doing before they decide to desert the military.

"If you make your military term work, you can handle any situation that will arise in the civilian world," he said. "If you make the decision to go AWOL, you're just setting yourself up for failure down the road." ❏



Accounting for the Missing

Story by Steve Harding

The Army and DOD join forces to locate and identify missing service members.



THIS month marks a watershed in the continuing effort to locate, recover and identify those still missing from America's past conflicts.

If all goes according to plan, on Oct. 1 the two organizations that have long spearheaded the search for the nation's unaccounted-for service members — the U.S. Army Central Identification Laboratory, Hawaii, and Joint Task Force-Full Accounting — will join forces to become the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command.

The new organization will blend

CILHI's 247 service members and Department of the Army civilians with JTF-FA's 161 service members and Navy Department civilians, with command vested in an Army brigadier general, said CILHI's last Army commander, COL Paul A. Bethke.

Headquartered at Hickam Air Force Base in Honolulu, CILHI was part of the U.S. Total Army Personnel Command in Alexandria, Va. JTF-FA was also based in Honolulu, at the Marine Corps' Camp H.M. Smith, and reported to U.S. Pacific Command. The new organization will also report to PACOM and will remain in Hawaii, Bethke said.

The commander of the new organization is BG W. Montague Winfield, formerly the assistant division commander for support in the Hawaii-based 25th Infantry Division.

◀ The consolidation of CILHI and JTF-FA means the end of the former as an Army agency, though probably not a move from its longtime home — Hickham AFB.



Cpl. Ricardo Morales, USMC





While CILHI had a well-earned reputation for sending recovery teams wherever the mission required, few operations were as challenging as the September 2002 excavation of a World War II crash site more than 15,000 feet up in the Himalaya Mountains of southeastern Tibet.

Experience and Accomplishment

Each agency brings a wealth of experience and history of accomplishment to the new Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command, officials said.

JTF-FA, for its part, was established in January 1992 and grew out of the Joint Casualty Resolution Center that since 1973 had led the U.S. government's efforts to account for service members and certain American civilians missing as a result of the war in Southeast Asia. Comprised of investigators, analysts, linguists and other specialists representing all four military services and Navy civilian employees, JTF-FA maintained detachments in Bangkok, Thailand; Hanoi, Vietnam; and Vientiane, Laos.

As the lead agency for Vietnam-era searches and recoveries, JTF-FA did the research and investigative groundwork for recovery efforts in Southeast Asia. However, since the organization had no recovery teams of its own, recovery operations were always conducted by CILHI personnel, with the two agencies working together in the field.

CILHI also traced its roots to the conflict in Southeast Asia, having

evolved from the U.S. military mortuaries that operated in Ton Son Nhut and Danang, South Vietnam, during that conflict. In 1973 those facilities were closed and their operations moved to Thailand. The move to Hawaii and the resulting creation of CILHI occurred in 1976. Though it was an Army organization, since October 2001 CILHI's military personnel had been drawn from each of the services.

While JTF-FA dealt exclusively with Vietnam-era cases, CILHI's worldwide mission encompassed those unaccounted for from World War II, Korea and the Cold War, as well as Southeast Asia. In addition to its search-and-recovery operations and casualty-data analysis functions, CILHI had a staff of some 30 anthropologists and four odontologists — forensic dentists — who undertook the identification of the remains recovered during both CILHI and joint CILHI-JTF-FA missions [*see accompanying story*].

In addition to its primary recovery and identification task, CILHI also participated in humanitarian missions — such as assisting in the recovery

Steve Harding



Cpl. Ricardo Morales, USMC

and identification of remains following the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks in New York City and Washington, D.C., and aiding federal and local law-enforcement agencies.

A Continuing Need

While the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command's mission incorporates CILHI's humanitarian-assistance activities, the new agency's primary focus will continue to be on recovering and identifying personnel unaccounted for during the period from World War II to Vietnam. It is a

▲ Local assistance has always been a key part of CILHI and JTF-FA operations. Here, CILHI's CPT Octave MacDonald speaks with local workers before a February 2003 excavation on a site in Vietnam's Kien Giang province.



daunting task, Bethke said, for there are more than 78,000 still missing from WWII, about 8,100 from the Korean War, 1,900 from the Vietnam War and about 120 from the Cold War.

Of those missing from WWII, officials estimate that only some 35,000 can be recovered — the others were either buried at sea or are entombed within sunken vessels. While CILHI made WWII-era recoveries in such areas as Europe, Turkey, Burma and Tibet, the majority of operations were — and will probably continue to be — in Papua New Guinea and the small island

chains scattered across the South Pacific [*for a close-up look at one of those WWII operations, see “A Search for the Missing” in the August 2002 issue*].

In terms of Korean War recoveries, officials estimate that some 5,500 of the Americans still unaccounted for were last seen in North Korea. It wasn't until 1996 that American search-and-recovery teams were allowed into that communist nation, and operations there must still be negotiated on a year-to-year basis.

Though the numbers of American personnel missing from the Cold War



Careful measurement, marking and excavation are vital in every search-and-recovery mission — such as this January 2002 CILHI effort on Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands.

are relatively small, their recovery is no less important, Bethke said. CILHI teams carried out search-and-recovery operations in Armenia, Russia, China and Nicaragua, leading to the recovery and eventual identification of some 15 American service members.

While each recovery is important, those from the war in Southeast Asia have most often been the focus of

public attention. And it is also the area of the former JTF-FA's expertise, Bethke said. The 10 CILHI teams that were traditionally allocated to operations in Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos were under JTF-FA's operational control, and operations in Southeast Asia will undoubtedly be a major part of the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command's mission.

Best of Both Worlds

Combining the data archives and historical-research and information-analysis operations of both CILHI and JTF-FA will have a range of benefits, Bethke said. Most importantly, it means the new agency's team of casualty-data analysts will have direct access to the personnel, medical and dental records of most of the nation's unaccounted-for service members.

And for the anthropologists who actually undertake the identification of recovered remains, one of the most important benefits of the consolidation of CILHI and JTF-FA is that the latter agency's life-support analysts will become part of the laboratory. Primarily drawn from the Navy and Air Force, these personnel are

▶ Sifting every pail of dirt recovered from the excavated site ensures that no remains, no matter how small, are overlooked. Later, forensic anthropologists will use a range of techniques to attempt to identify the remains.

specialists in the various types of equipment worn by flight crews.

"When we're in the field, the anthropologists almost always work most closely with the life-support analysts," said Dr. Helen M. Wols, a CILHI forensic anthropologist and lab manager. "We're always going to our LSAs to have them determine if an item or fragment we've found is part of something worn or used by American aircrews. If they determine that it is, we expand the area in which we're digging. So to have them here is going to be extremely helpful, because we can get immediate feedback."

A Well-planned Operation

The merger of CILHI and JTF-FA is an event that was well thought out and logically planned, Bethke said.

"This consolidation process has been evaluated and approved at many levels, and the determination has been made that this is the best way to ensure

Steve Harding



A CIL forensic anthropologist takes measurements from a laboratory test specimen, exactly as is done during the examination of actual remains.

Identifyin

Story and Photo by Steve Harding

WHILE their workplace is now officially known as the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command's Central Identification Laboratory, the mission of the anthropologists and forensic odontologists of the former CILHI hasn't changed. Simply put, it's their job to identify the recovered remains of American service members.

The first step in that process is the



g the Recovered

analysis of the skeletal remains, which is always undertaken by an anthropologist who did not take part in the actual recovery of the remains.

“That’s done so that when the anthropologists begin their analyses they don’t have any preconceived notions of what they’re going to find,” said Dr. Helen M. Wols, a CIL forensic anthropologist and lab manager.

The nature and location of the

service member’s death can greatly influence how much materiel the anthropologists have to work with, Wols said. For example, the skeletal remains of soldiers killed in ground combat tend to be more complete and better preserved than those of pilots whose aircraft crashed into the ground at high speeds.

The anthropologist first lays out the remains in anatomical order and

removes any debris or commingled remains. By examining the size, density and other characteristics of the remains, the anthropologist can often glean such information as the age, sex, race and stature of the deceased, and can often detect the signs of medical disorders from which the person might have suffered, Wols said.

Because teeth are very durable and the dental work a person undergoes ➤



that we have the most effective organization to continue the search for those missing from all our nation's wars," he said.

Positive, But Bittersweet

While the CILHI-JTF-FA merger is a positive and logical step that will produce a more efficient and more

capable organization, Bethke said being the last Army commander of an Army-owned CILHI is bittersweet.

"I first served at CILHI as a team leader and executive officer from 1985 to 1989," he said. "And being the last commander is rather emotional. Having been here when the staff was just 17 people, and then serving here when the number is 247, has been a

can be very individualistic, odontology can also provide key information. The lab's odontologists work independently, and can refer to a computer database that includes most of the dental information for personnel missing from the Vietnam and Korean wars. The computer will generate a list of possible matches for the teeth.

"The forensic odontologists compare the dental remains that we recover with the ante-mortem dental records in order to make a positive dental identification," Wols said. "And that's the type of identification we really want, that's the standard."

If a dental ID is not possible, the lab can turn to mitochondrial DNA, or mtDNA, analysis, Wols said.

"Mitochondrial DNA is very hardy, and there are thousands of copies of it per cell, so it's easier to get from a bone or a tooth than nuclear DNA," she said. "But if the bone has been burned or the fragment is very small,

we can't get it. Currently, about 50 percent of our cases go to mtDNA."

The mtDNA can be drawn from teeth or bones, but if drawn from the latter the process is destructive because the sample must be cut from the bone, Wols said. Once obtained, samples are sent to the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory in Rockville, Md. If AFDIL is able to "sequence" the mtDNA in the sample, the CIL staff asks the branch to which the service member belonged to contact the person's family to ask for a family reference sample.

While an mtDNA match between a family member and the deceased service member is strong evidence for a positive identification, Wols said, it is not conclusive because people who are only distantly related may share similar sequences. Instead, the mtDNA match is considered one more piece in the identification "puzzle" — the goal is to make the identification



The mission of the Joint POW/MIA Command is the same as those of the agencies from which it was formed: to locate, recover and return the remains of missing service members.

fascinating and emotional experience.

"I knew when I came back as commander that the consolidation was a possibility and that CILHI's time as an Army unit would end," Bethke said. "But I also knew that the mission would continue, that the service we provide to the families of the missing would get better, and in that sense I don't feel at all bad about the merger.

"The important thing for all of us to remember — everyone who wears our nation's uniform, and our family members — is that all of us in this new organization remain firmly committed to the fullest possible accounting of our missing," he said. "This consolidation is a recommitment to that mission, and it will allow us to be even more effective in locating, recovering and identifying the remains of our missing." 📧

by combining the mtDNA results with the other analyses.

Once the anthropologists and odontologists complete their analyses, other members of the lab's scientific staff review each case. The case is then forwarded to the agency's scientific director, who acts as a medical examiner to establish the identification. Once that identification is made, the case is forwarded to the appropriate service casualty office, which contacts the family.

By the time of its consolidation with JTF-FA, CILHI had been able to identify more than 1,100 sets of remains. And each identification has been important to the lab staffers, Wols said.

"The families of unaccounted-for service members have waited years for answers, and to be able to play some role, even if it's small, in them getting those answers is just so incredibly rewarding," she said. 📧

Lewis and Clark

At the Falls of the Ohio

Story by Dr. Charles E. White

AFTER arriving in Louisville, Ky., on Oct. 14, 1803, CPT Meriwether Lewis hired local pilots to guide the keelboat safely through a daunting set of rapids known as the “Falls of the Ohio,” and then a short distance further to Clarksville, Indiana Territory.

Once there, Lewis set off to meet his co-captain, William Clark, who was living with his older brother, BG George Rogers Clark.

During the next 12 days, they recruited members for the expedition. Word had spread throughout the Ohio Valley, and young men longing for adventure set out for Clarksville to sign up. The two captains judged these volunteers on their overall physical strength and endurance, their foraging and hunting skills, and their ability to make or repair the gear needed for the long journey to the Pacific coast and back.

Lewis and Clark eventually selected nine from the unknown number of volunteers. They were SGTs Charles Floyd and Nathaniel Pryor, and PVTs William Bratton, John Colter, Joseph and Reubin Field, George Gibson, George Shannon and John Shields. Colter and Shannon had already joined Lewis before he had reached Cincinnati. These volunteers became known as “The Nine Young Men from Kentucky.”

In a ceremony on Oct. 20, 1803, Lewis and Clark enlisted the nine new soldiers who would form the nucleus of the Corps of Discovery.


Floyd and Pryor were first cousins and exceptional leaders. Lewis regarded Floyd as “a young man of much merit,” while he and Clark considered Pryor “a man of character and ability.” Lewis wrote in his final report that the Field brothers

were “two of the most active and enterprising young men who accompanied us.” They were among the best shots and hunters, and were routinely chosen to accompany the captains on special reconnaissance missions.

Shields was the oldest member of the expedition, and his skills as a blacksmith, gunsmith and carpenter were invaluable. Lewis recommended that Congress give

Shields a bonus for his services.

In addition to the nine new recruits, Clark also decided to bring along his slave York, who carried a rifle and performed his full share of duties with the other members of the expedition.

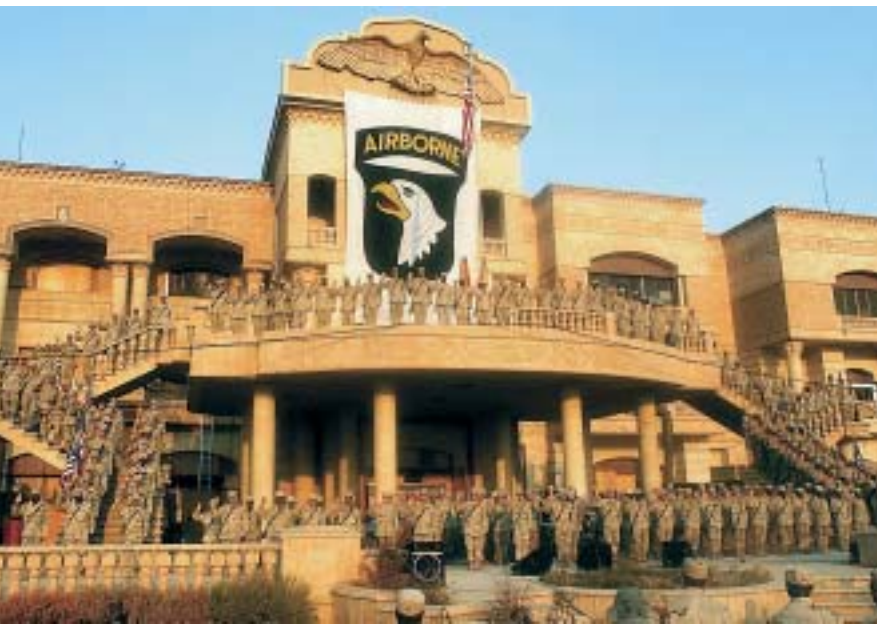
The expedition left the Falls on Oct. 26, 1803, and headed down-river to Fort Massac in southern Illinois Territory. 

Dr. Charles White works at the U.S. Army Center of Military History in Washington, D.C.



Falls of the Ohio





SGT Michael Bracken

◀ 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION RE-UP

Mosul, Iraq

More than 150 soldiers from the 101st Airborne Division raised their right hands as they took their reenlistment oaths during an Independence Day celebration at a former Saddam Hussein palace where the division main element was located.

HONORING THE FALLEN ▶

Fort Stewart, Ga.

“FOREVER more these soldiers will be remembered and most of all they will always be here, marching in every formation on the field of honor. They will be in attendance at our most important events. They will not be forgotten,” said COL Gerald J. Poltorak during a ceremony honoring the 34 soldiers of the 3rd Infantry Division killed in action during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Thirty-four trees were planted to honor the soldiers. A granite marker in front of each tree carries the soldier’s rank, name and the words “Iraqi Freedom.” The area where the trees were planted will be known as Warriors Walk.

The division’s soldiers were prepared when called to deploy to Kuwait, Poltorak said. Later the division struck deep into the heart of Iraq, straight to Baghdad, fighting its way in tough conditions, through the Iraqi army, Republican Guard, Fedayeen fighters and anyone else who stood in its way.

During the ceremony CSM Carl T. Smith, installation com-



SPC Jonathan Stack

mand sergeant major, read the names of the 34 soldiers. After each name a soldier guarding the marker removed a veil made of desert camouflage material with the soldier’s rank and 3rd Inf. Div. patch sewn on it.

“Those killed and injured were from units throughout the division,” Poltorak said.

“They were young troopers and old soldiers, private to captain to chief warrant officer 4. Single soldiers and married soldiers, some with large families and some with small, died and were wounded for their country and its values,” he said. “They fought for their units and most of all for the soldiers standing next to them.”

— SPC Jonathan M. Stack, 3rd Inf. Div. PAO

“MAIL CALL” GOES TO IRAQ ►

Camp Arifjan, Kuwait

EVEN before Operation Iraqi Freedom can be declared history, the History Channel’s Lee Erme y brought his show “Mail Call” to OIF’s theater of operations to show the public the military’s mission through Erme y’s unique and patriotic lens.

Erme y, memorable for his performance as Gunnery Sgt. Hartman, a Marine drill instructor in the movie “Full Metal Jacket,” interviewed service members for his show about military life and operations, and entertained troops with his unabashedly conservative humor.

Erme y, aka “Gunney,” was in the OIF theater for about 10 days, traveling north to Tallil Air Base in Iraq and several points between, talking with soldiers, sailors, airman, Coast Guard members and especially his beloved marines.

Erme y had lunch at a chow hall at Arifjan, and then entertained diners with 10 minutes of jokes and observations. He also told the troops about his mission to tell America what a great job they were doing in Iraq.

Erme y interviewed COL Carl Cartwright, Logistics Support Element Commander, Army Materiel Command, Southwest Asia, about the 18,000 pieces of equipment AMC has dispensed in theater. During the interview Erme y demonstrated his vast knowledge of the military by speaking without a script about the AMC mission for OIF.

Erme y stood for dozens of pictures with troops, then took a ride with the Navy SEALs in a rigid inflatable boat. While his Mail Call crew filmed the event, Erme y interviewed the boat crew as they zipped over the water and took a few hairpin turns at high speed.

— SSG Thomas Orme, 3rd Personnel Command Public Affairs Office



SSG Thomas Orme

GUARD SOLDIERS DRILL FOR WATER ►

San Diego, Calif.

“GREAT training.” For soldiers from the Arizona National Guard’s 257th Engineer Detachment, these words summarized two weeks of well drilling in support of the Border Barrier Project, California’s long-term border-reinforcement mission.

The nine-man unit drilled a well along the California-Mexico border. The natural source of water will be used by Army Reserve and National Guard engineer units in construction projects.

“This water could be used for irrigation of new plants, for mixing concrete or for dust control along the patrolled border roads,” Cervantes said.

SFC Ben Coley, the detachment’s



SGT Jon Wilke

supervisor, called this mission a training opportunity of a lifetime. “Here, we actually get to start up the drill and do our job. At home, we can only set it up and go through the motions.”

Cervantes said he enjoyed “doing

something for San Diego, working with the Environmental Protection Agency and the Border Patrol, and working with the Guard units.”

— SGT Jon Wilke, 133rd Mobile PA Det.

October 16



Calendar

NATIONAL BOSS DAY

National Boss Day, Oct. 16, began in 1958 when Patricia Bays Haroski, then employed by State Farm Insurance in Illinois, registered the holiday with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Haroski wanted to show appreciation for her boss and improve relationships between employees and supervisors. Common ways of saying “thanks” are:

- 📩 A card
- 🍽️ Lunch
- 🌸 Flowers
- 🎁 A gift certificate

Hallmark made its first National Boss Day cards in 1979, and American Greetings estimated some 1 million Boss Day cards were exchanged in the United States last year.

Did you know . . .

According to the Federal Personnel Guide, supervisors may not accept gifts from employees. A gift is anything of monetary value except coffee, donuts and similar refreshments; greeting cards; and plaques or trophies. Birthdays and holidays are exceptions to this rule, which allows employees to give a gift valuing up to \$10 on Boss Day.

Fall Back

DAYLIGHT-SAVING TIME ENDS ➤

DAYLIGHT-saving time in the U.S. ends at 2 a.m. on **Oct. 26**. DST was created to save energy and gain an extra hour of daylight in the evenings by setting our clocks an hour forward in the summer months.



Free

REWARDS FOR SOLDIERS

MANY regional and national attractions are offering service members free admissions and discounts through early winter.

Disney World, Disneyland, Universal Studios and Anheuser-Busch adventure parks are offering free passes to active-duty military members, including Army Reservists and National Guard members who can demonstrate proof of an active-duty assignment from Sept. 1, 2002, to Dec. 19, 2003.

Universal Military Salute

Universal Studios Hollywood is offering unlimited free admission to active-duty service members until Dec. 19. Up to five family members or friends of each service member may purchase the same pass for \$39.

Universal Studios Orlando is offering free five-day passes to active-duty service members until Dec. 19. Up to five family members or friends of each service member may purchase the same pass for \$50 plus tax. Members of the military will also receive a 40-percent discount at Universal Orlando's three on-site hotels through Dec. 19.

Disney's Armed Forces Salute

Disneyland is providing a free three-day admission pass for the Disneyland and California Adventure theme parks for all active-duty service members. Tickets are available for up to five friends or family members for \$39 each.

Walt Disney World is offering active-duty service members free five-day passes to theme parks, plus admission for up to five family members or friends at \$99 each.

A 40-percent discount is also available for hotel stays and cruise packages for both Disney World and Disneyland.

Anheuser-Busch

Anheuser-Busch is offering free one-time, one-day, one-park admission to theme parks or Sea Worlds it operates in Virginia, California, Texas and Pennsylvania. The offer includes free admission for the service member and up to four family members. To attend, soldiers must fill out applications.

 For information and applications on all offers, go to www.offdutytravel.com and click on "Special Free Admission Offers."



Check This Out

Morale, welfare and recreation offices also offer special hotel and resort rates, as well as discounted admissions to other area attractions.

 Go to www.armymwr.com.

Watch for the reopening of Shades of Green in March 2004.

 Go to www.shadesofgreen.org



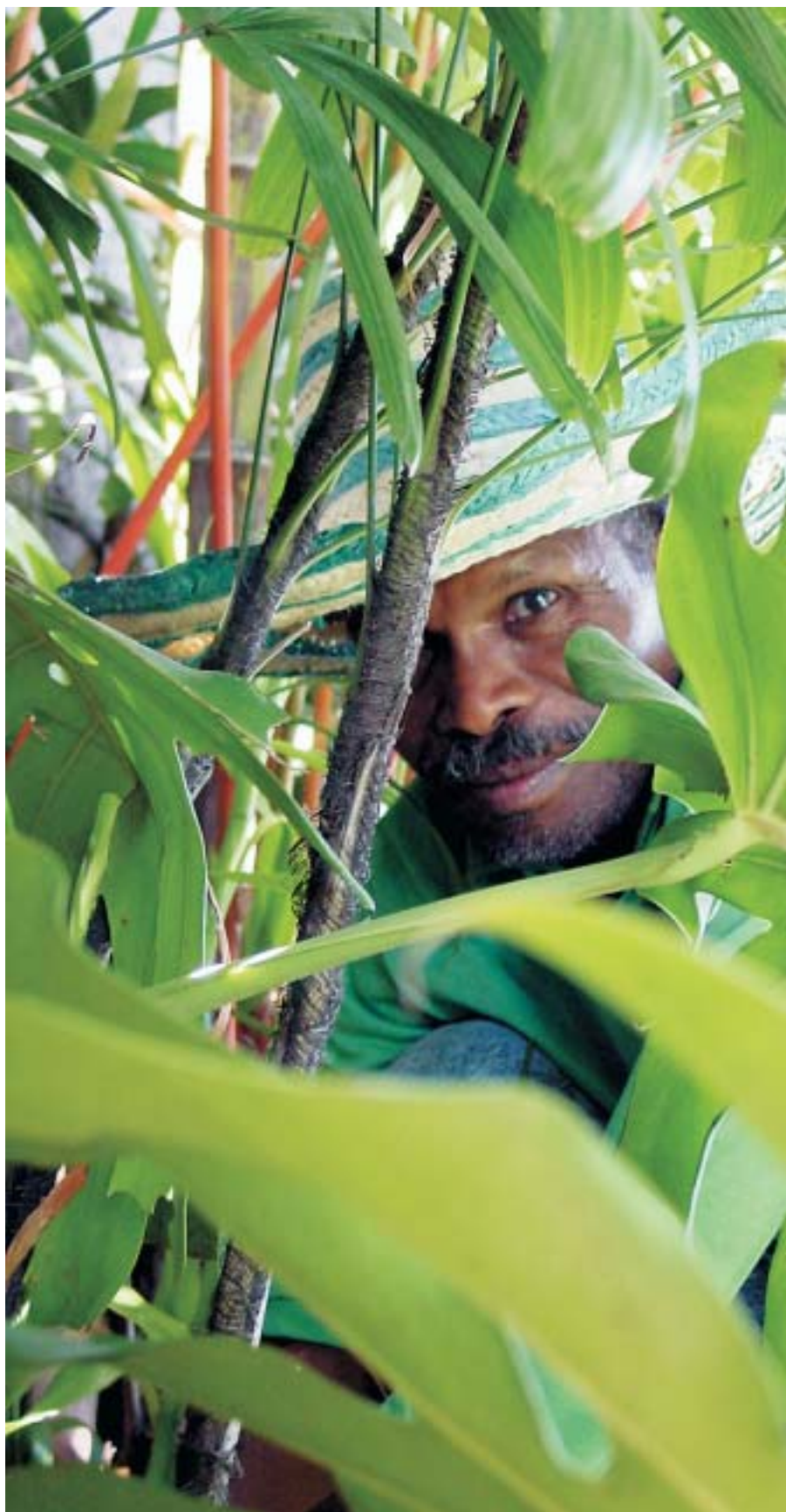
SPC James-Denton Wyllie is a photojournalist with the 20th Public Affairs Detachment at Fort Richardson, Alaska. Wyllie spent a month in the Philippines covering Balikatan 2003, a joint-training exercise intended to help U.S. and Philippine soldiers improve combat readiness and teamwork to handle emergencies that may arise throughout the Asia-Pacific region.

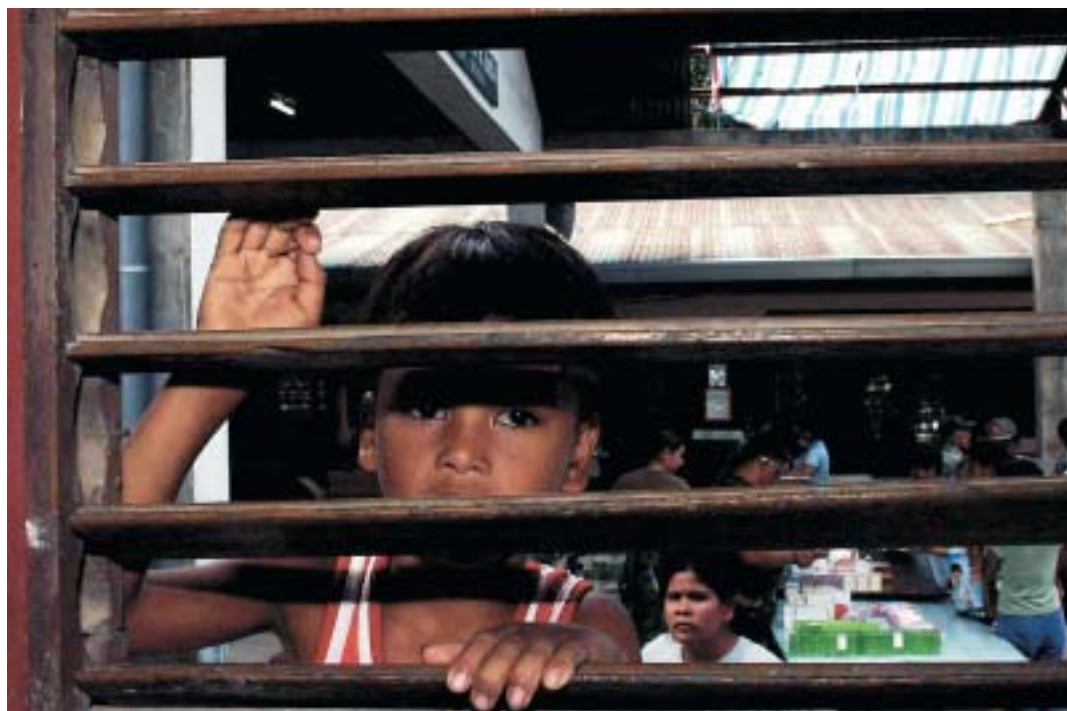
Here are some of the images Wyllie captured during his tour. 🇵🇭



▲ Marine broadcaster Cpl. Kristin Tull interviews PVT Nathaniel Worrell, a carpentry and masonry specialist. Worrell and other soldiers from Hawaii's 84th Engineer Battalion renovated local classrooms as part of joint community-relations projects.

► Gardener Pan Sangalang takes time out to smile for U.S. service members.





A Filipino child watches as military personnel build a new school classroom in the town of Batangas.



Locals wait in line to receive medical attention during a medical civil action project in Talisay.

The Sleep



Factor

Story by Karen Fleming-Michael

AS coalition forces traveled through desert and towns en route to Baghdad in April, television viewers witnessed a fraction of the efforts and activities individual soldiers must perform to successfully fight a war.

Operating for long hours, often at night, combat soldiers seldom find time for more than a catnap on hard ground. Support soldiers don't fare much better as they extend themselves to get supplies and services to those who need them. For both groups, exhaustion can be a serious problem.

The Army has long conducted detailed and extensive studies to help understand and alleviate the ill effects sleep deprivation has on soldiers.

"There's nothing heroic about staying awake for long periods of time," said COL Gregory Belenky, lead sleep researcher at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research outside Washington, D.C. In fact, combat soldiers who deprive themselves of sleep can cause missions to fail, he said.

Historically, battles are won or lost at the small-unit level, due to the interaction — or

Karen Fleming-Michael works in the Public Affairs Office at Fort Detrick, Md.

A soldier of the 2nd Brigade, 101st Abn. Div., catches a rare moment of sleep before heading out again into combat. The brigade helped liberate Najaf, Iraq, from regime forces and captured thousands of pounds of weapons, uniforms and protective gear.

SPC David Marck Jr.



Soldiers from the 3rd Infantry Div. sleep in hasty fighting positions in Iraq.

SGT Luis Lazzara

lack of it — between individuals in squads and platoons, said Belenky, a psychiatrist who has studied sleep for the Army since 1984. “If you’re sleep deprived, you’re not going to make good decisions,” he said.

Sleep-deprived battle planners, too, can make poor decisions, said LTC Robert Noback, who studies aircrew health and performance at the U.S. Army Aeromedical Research Laboratory at Fort Rucker, Ala. Members of battle staffs frequently get less sleep than the soldiers in combat, so they’re equally at risk of making bad decisions, Noback said. One bad decision leads to others; tired soldiers will make bad decisions based on poor plans passed to them by tired planners.

The military studies sleep as it pertains to both sustained and continuous operations. During sustained operations, combat soldiers get less than four hours sleep each night for days at a time, which is considered severe sleep deprivation. During continuous operations, soldiers get less than seven hours sleep each night, Noback said.

Both sustained and continuous operations take their toll, but what complicates deprivation is that sustained operations can occur simultaneously with

continuous operations. “So the mixed-up sleep patterns of already sleep-deprived soldiers get even more mixed up,” Noback said.

The regions of the brain best able to process information, judge situations and make logical decisions are also those most affected by lack of sleep, Belenky said. “Degraded activity in these regions of the brain can pose great peril to future combat units,” he said.

More and more, combat soldiers will continue to receive an overwhelming amount of information, and they’ll need to be able to process it to make decisions, Belenky said. “You can have a brilliant plan, but unless you have intelligent execution at the lowest level, it won’t work.”

To mitigate some of the effects of sleep deprivation during operations, WRAIR has a team of physicians, physiologists and experimental psychologists who study sleep for the Department of Defense. Findings are

included in peer-reviewed literature, such as the “Journal of Sleep Research,” as well as Army field manuals, including FM 6-22.5, “Combat Stress,” and FM 22-51, “Leader’s Manual for Combat Stress Control.”

In experiments done at WRAIR’s sleep lab, the team learned that people who functioned on minimal amounts of sleep for more than a week required more than three days to recover — that is, to function to their “standard” capacity, Belenky said.

To help commanders determine the consequences of sleep deprivation, WRAIR researchers developed a sleep watch that measures how much sleep a study subject gets and indicates how well the individual is performing and will perform in the future.

Because the amount of sleep needed varies from one individual to another, Army researchers are exploring ways to alter the watch’s current one-size-fits-all presentation.

The sleep watch will be included in the Objective Force Warrior’s “Scorpion” ensemble as part of the Warfighter Physiological Status Monitoring System being developed by the U.S. Army Research Institute of Environmental Medicine in Natick, Mass.

The system will give commanders and medics aggregate information on soldiers’ physical readiness, such as thermal stress, hydration status and cognitive state.

Army researchers have also looked at stimulants to see if they are effective in keeping soldiers awake and able to make sound decisions.

“Stimulants can be very effective, but there’s no set standard for who

NAPPIN' IS GOOD FOR YOU... GETTIN' ENOUGH SLEEP HELPS YOU MAKE SOUND DECISIONS.



During sustained operations, combat soldiers get less than four hours sleep each night for days at a time, which is considered severe sleep deprivation. The Army is working on the problem.

should take a stimulant,” Belenky said. He’d like to see stimulant use and dosage targeted toward individuals, not groups, so a person gets just what he needs to perform — no more and no less.

When looking at different stimulants, it’s not surprising that studies have shown caffeine is an effective aid, Noback said. For caffeine to be most effective, however, regular users need to minimize their caffeine use so that when they need it, caffeine will give them a boost.

In upcoming studies, WRAIR researchers will test caffeine, d-amphetamine and modafinil to see which of the three stimulants produces the best results. The bottom line with stimulants, Belenky said, is that they are “short-term fixes at best. The real answer is to get adequate amounts of sleep and efficiently managed sleep.”

Army researchers also study sleep-

inducing compounds to help circumvent the body’s natural rhythm.

Though highly addictive, drugs called hypnotics do increase sleep length. However, if the user is awakened an hour or two after some drugs’ peak effects, his or her judgment is impaired. If the user is a soldier, that means readiness is impaired.

The aviation community at the U.S. Army Aeromedical Research Laboratory has begun testing zaleplon, a new sleep-inducing compound, to see if its hangover effect is less than the effect of previously tested hypnotics.

“Aviators may fly strictly day missions for long periods and then suddenly be switched to night flying,” Belenky said. They’ve reported they then have difficulty staying awake, said researcher Dr. Pat Le Duc of USAARL. “Finding a safe hypnotic is one way we can mitigate the effects of

interfering with normal sleep patterns.

Le Duc and other researchers hope an upcoming eight-day, seven-night study of 12 aviators will provide answers as to whether a 10-milligram dose taken before an early bedtime will allow subjects to fall asleep faster and get better sleep. The team also hopes to learn if more sleep will increase alertness, lessen fatigue and offset the common declines in performance that typically occur when work begins early in the morning.

The aviators will complete cognitive tests, fly the lab’s simulator, undergo sleepiness and electrophysiological evaluations, and complete questionnaires about their mood.

While waiting for answers to help determine the best stimulant or hypnotic for soldiers in combat, Belenky’s advice on catching Zs is clear-cut. “Take the opportunity to sleep. Naps are wonderful,” he said. He advises commanders to organize their areas so sleep can occur. “I’ve tried to sleep in a big tent, where every 20 minutes someone shook me awake, asking me if I was ‘Smith.’ It got so bad, we ended up sleeping with big signs that had our names on them so we’d be left alone,” he said. 🛏

SSG Edgar Soto of the 82nd Abn. Div.’s 2nd Bn., 325th Inf. Regt., naps in a bombed-out building being used by his platoon as a temporary base of operations in Samawa, Iraq.

SGT Kyran V. Adams



INSIDE

EREC

**Story and Photos by
SFC Lisa Gregory**

THE recruit moves through the Military Entrance Processing Station, stopping at each table, filling out papers and moving on, while the brown folder under his arm grows thicker. At the final stop he hands over the folder. So begins the journey of the Military Personnel Records Jacket, more commonly known as the 201 file.

The first stop of many for this recruit's history of service is the Enlisted Records and Evaluation Center, in Indianapolis, Ind. There, a personal database for the soldier is

created. There, too, is the personnel folder's final stop when the soldier separates or retires from service.

Many soldiers have seen the records system evolve from a paper-trail process to today's electronic version that seems second nature to the new recruit.

"At EREC we see ourselves as 'transformation leaders,'" said COL Reuben Jones, the facility's commander. "We develop the tools to provide service to the soldier. We're willing to make changes, and deliver those changes to help the soldier."

From scanning that first document

to helping a soldier prepare for promotion, EREC is designing new systems to help service members. To do this EREC is divided into three divisions and an information support team responsible for software and program development and network security.

Enlisted Records Division

Some of the biggest changes have taken place in the Enlisted Records Division. It's there that the electronic record is born.

"We maintain every document



inside every record of every active-duty soldier,” said Tony Eclavea, chief of the Records Division. “Records for those retiring and separating are maintained here for 60 to 90 days and then sent to St. Louis, Mo. We currently store approximately 469,000 records here electronically.”

A tour through the division begins at the mail point, where each year roughly 1.6 million pieces of mail are sorted and distributed. “Most mail consists of documents that need to be added to someone’s records. With the advent of ‘field-to-file’ we’ve reduced the amount of mail and the cost of postage to the soldier,” said Eclavea.

With the OMPF available online, requests for the outdated microfiche file has dropped from 22,000 a month to roughly 5,000 a month.

Sorted mail is distributed throughout the division. New records from MEPS are gathered and scanned into the database at a rate of 1,000 to 1,200 pages an hour, Eclavea said.

This is the beginning of the electronic personnel record. The process is a mystery to new recruits, but for NCOs preparing to go before promotion boards this system becomes a lifeline to their military records.

“Using OMPF online saves soldiers time and money. Before, if they wanted to add documents for the promotion boards they’d mail them in and sometimes come here, paying their own way, to see their records and ensure the necessary items made it,” said Eclavea. “Now they can use digital senders and within 24 hours their personnel service units can verify the documents made it to their records.”

“Since October 2001 we’ve been using the digital sender at more than 100 sites worldwide. It’s still primarily a tool for personnel offices, but small units can also use this system,” he added. “With this in place we are now receiving 70,000 fewer documents in the mail each year.”

“We currently store 27 million pages of retrievable data in our system,” said Calvin Barker, who oversees the network storage systems.

“We’ve been using a Personnel Electronic Records Management System since 1994, which allowed us to convert data into microfiche form. A newer system, Network Attach Storage, allows us to store just the data needed for the OMPF, which gives soldiers quick access to their records.”

The current system allows up to 10,000 users to access information at any one time. But users



SSG David Gould from Fort Knox, Ky., checks his records at EREC's Customer Service Division. Soldiers travel to EREC from around the world in preparation for promotion boards.

can rest assured that their personal information cannot be viewed by others. The personal data found on the 27 million pages in the system is stored monthly on digital tape that is tightly secured.

New initiatives within the Records Division include assisting with the new online promotion-board system, working on a secure e-mail system for documents, and assisting the records warehouse in St. Louis with digitizing old records.

“We think about active-Army, National Guard and Reserve soldiers, as well as retirees, in everything we do here,” Jones said, “so we’ll assist other agencies when they need help. It’s a one-Army concept.”

Senior Enlisted Promotion Board

For staff sergeants and below, getting promoted is a local issue. They work with their personnel offices to update records, fill out promotion-point worksheets and prepare for military-knowledge boards.



▲ A new concept for the future of promotion boards includes an online preview of a soldier's record and official photo.

◀ Calvin Barker of EREC's Records Division checks the main database housing online OMPF information (*main photo*). All enlisted military records are backed-up on magnetic tape (*top inset*), with a back-up to the back-up on optical disks (*lower inset*).

With the OMPF available online, the number of requests for the outdated microfiche file has dropped from 22,000 a month to roughly 5,000 a month.

Once the excitement of promotion to staff sergeant passes, it's time to begin preparing for the centralized promotion boards, which are coordinated by and conducted at EREC.

Maintaining good personal records is important for every soldier, especially those being considered for senior-level promotions, Jones said. Preparing for the centralized promotion board begins by visiting the local personnel office for a records update and having an official photo taken.

"The process begins with soldiers verifying their Personnel Qualification Records, which arrive at EREC before the boards convene," said SGM Kathleen Pavlon. "If errors are found, the soldiers are notified through their AKO addresses so they can make the necessary changes."

The new digital photos being used today must still be followed up by hard copy prints sent to EREC.

The EREC team knows that some soldiers' mission requirements can make this process a daunting task, so they're always looking at initiatives to make board preparations easier.

One initiative was OMPF Online, which lets soldiers see what the promotion board sees and know what items need to be updated. The digital photos also allow soldiers to see what will be presented to the board.

"We want to automate all of this information," said CPT Jerry Wood, the board recorder. "We're working to establish a common, automated board-interface program that is fair and equitable for all soldiers in the zone of consideration."

Using an interface system that links a soldier's personal data into one system will not only help ease preparing for the board, but will aid board members in the review process, Wood said.

Records Services Division

If the Enlisted Records Division is the record keeper for EREC, and the

Department of the Army Secretariat for Promotion Boards is the gateway to the future of the enlisted soldier, then the Records Services Division is the glue that binds them together.

"We're the division that answers the soldiers' questions or assists with their records," said Sylvia Davis, RSD's chief. "We have three branches: Personnel Actions, NCOER and Customer Service."

The biggest project being handled within Personnel Actions is the Date Initial Entry Military Service, or DIEMS, project. Soldiers should verify their dates online at www.perscom.army.mil — the correctness of the date is critical, since it determines which retirement plan the soldier falls under.

The personnel actions section also handles all inquiries regarding the World Wide Locator and the Qualitative Management Program, and processes NCOER appeals.

"If soldiers need to make changes in their records, we will do that. And if there are legal questions, we will look into them," said Wanda Willis, chief of the Personnel Actions Branch.

Verification and review of documents is important to every division within EREC, but for the NCOER section that review is vital to maintaining on-time and accurate reports, said MSG Gary Adams of the NCOER

section. He said the types of errors his team reviews are those that the local personnel staff normally wouldn't be looking for.

Other EREC initiatives include:

- Online NCOER tracking for personnel-service centers. "The PSB can check when a soldier's NCOER was processed and if any errors were found," said Adams.

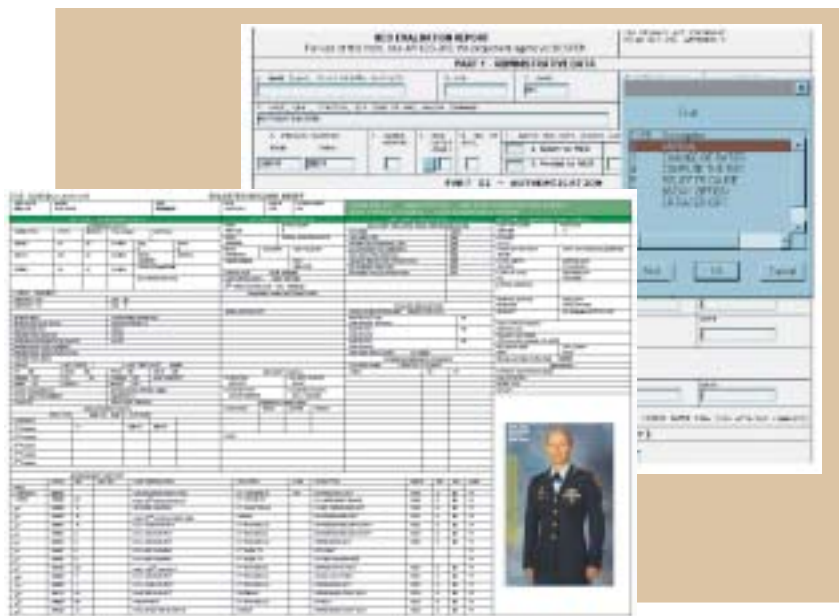
- Online NCOER. This system will allow access to the rating form by the soldier, rater and senior rater. Input and changes will be made online and stored on an EREC server.

For soldiers who still want to check their records at EREC, the customer-service department provides individual stations where they can do so privately and at their convenience.

"Many younger soldiers are comfortable with using OMPF Online, but a lot of supervisors still recommend soldiers come here to check their records and drop off documents they want added," said SFC John Solie, the customer-service NCOIC.

"We strongly encourage soldiers to call us at (DSN) 699-3735 or toll free at (866) 771-6357 so we can work together to update or correct their records without them spending time or money to come here," Solie said.

"Basically, all problems can be corrected with good two-way communication." 📧



Among other new EREC initiatives are the online records brief (*front*) and the new online NCOER.

Ensuring Common Access

Story by Alisa Riggs

Beginning this month, soldiers and civilians alike will be required to log on to their computers using Common Access Cards, provided by their personnel centers.

WILL you be able to digitally sign or encrypt your email or control your electronic access with digital authentication?

The Department of Defense wants every soldier, civilian, and contract employee to accomplish these simple tasks by using the DOD Class 3 Public Key Infrastructure, or PKI, certificates stored on their Common Access Cards.

The Army's CAC program, which is replacing the old military and civilian ID card system, is constantly evolving as more cards are issued.

PKI certification is an essential part of securing the Army's communication infrastructure. As PK-Enabled applications become the norm in such areas as the Defense Travel System and tighter security measures are

enforced, Army leaders are taking steps to ensure their personnel are issued CACs.

"In response to the global war on terror, PKI and the CAC play will improve our ability to deliver solutions that safeguard access to DOD information without diminishing worldwide availability," said Betsy Appleby, program manager for DOD Public Key Enabling.

A card reader and middleware must be installed on a computer to use the CAC's resident PKI certificates. To use the reader, users must enter the personal identification numbers issued to them when they received the cards.

The lag in time between receiving the card and installing the reader can be months, and during this time many users have forgotten their PINs. This has led to other program initiatives by the Office of the Product Manager for



The Army's CAC program, which is replacing the old military and civilian identification card system, is constantly evolving as more cards are issued. More than 700,000 Army personnel have been issued CACs since May 2001.


Secure Electronic Transactions-Devices and the Defense Manpower Data Center.

Together these groups have made significant progress in the development of a PIN-reset solution.

It is estimated that up to 50 percent of users will require CAC PIN resets.

LTG Peter Cuvillo, the Army's chief information officer, has set Sept. 30 as the date by which all soldiers and Department of the Army civilians and contractors should have access to Army networks with CACs and card readers.

More than 700,000 Army personnel have been issued CACs since May 2001, approximately 700,000 card readers have been fielded and 5,300 Army personnel have been trained to install readers.

For more information on secure electronic transfers visit <https://setdweb.setd.army.mil>. Helpdesk support is available to those who have received CAC PKI training but need technical or installation assistance, or have additional questions about the CAC PKI process. The helpdesk number is (866) 738-3222. 

Alisa Riggs works at the Product Managers' Office, Secure Electronic Transactions-Devices.



Disability and Service Separation

Disability and Service Separation

“DISABILITY” is a word that is foreign to our physically fit soldier lifestyle. It’s often misunderstood due to incorrect advice or opinions from leaders or peers, advice that is often given at a time when a soldier’s career is threatened and correct information is vital.

Disability and separation issues affect the soldier when an injury or medical condition is permanent and severe enough to limit job performance or deployability, raising the issue of fitness for duty. “Physical disability” includes both mental illnesses and physical conditions.

When reasonable medical care has been exhausted and the soldier’s ability to serve according to Army standards is in doubt, the treating physician, a commander or an MOS Medical Retention Board may refer the individual for a Medical Evaluation Board. The MEB is a clinical history of the patient’s care and resulting condition, prepared by the treating physician using the standards in Army Regulation 40-501.

Steven Chucala is chief of client services in the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate at Fort Belvoir, Va.

Medical Evaluation Board Process

The MEB does not require a hearing. Instead, the soldier is given a copy of the MEB findings for review, and the soldier has the right of rebuttal. Legal-assistance attorneys can help soldiers review medical board findings.

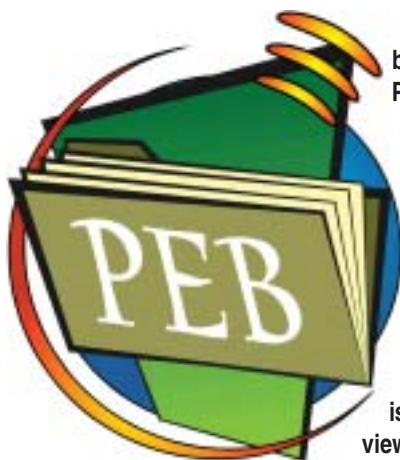
The Army’s disability program is based on federal law (Chapter 61, Title 10 of the U.S. Code) as implemented by Department of Defense Directive 1332.38, DOD Instruction 1332.18 and AR 635-40. The U.S. Army Physical Disability Agency, which has geographic regional branches known as Physical Evaluation Boards, ensures independent, impartial determinations that are free from command influence.

Army medical-treatment facilities employ Physical Evaluation Board Liaison Officers, who are usually civilian

employees who provide information to soldiers and are a conduit between the MTF and the Physical Evaluation Boards. These liaison officers are not lawyers, nor are they the soldier’s advocate or covered by attorney-client confidentiality rules.

The Physical Evaluation Board, or PEB — which includes a line officer, a personnel officer and a medical officer — performs the initial evaluation or “informal





board” of the MEB report. Each PEB member individually evaluates the file and makes findings as to the soldier’s fitness or unfitness with particular medical conditions and ratings for each based on the Department of Veterans Affairs’ “Schedule for Rating Disabilities.” A composite finding and recommendation is forwarded to the soldier for review and reply.

Soldiers can respond in several ways, ranging from concurring to nonconcurring with the PEB findings. They may submit additional information, escalating up to a request for a formal hearing with appointed free legal counsel and the right to present expert testimony and documentation, and the right to testify before the board. Often a soldier may disagree with a finding of “unfit” and will attempt to show that the medical condition does not preclude performance of MOS duties. Some seek to prove they are unfit or deserve higher disability ratings.

The Formal PEB is composed of at least three members, as well as a recorder who introduces the case but does not engage in any questioning. Whether it is an informal or formal PEB, it is not an adversary proceeding, but rather a fact-finding effort to enable the board to reach a fair conclusion. A formal PEB is like a sponge seeking to soak up all the knowledge it can, since up to that point the members had only clinical data forwarded by the MEB for their determination. The soldier may use the judge advocate attorney provided or pay to hire a civilian attorney.

The Formal PEB announces its findings immediately after the hearing in the presence of the soldier and counsel. The soldier also receives a verbatim record and may again consider if an appeal is warranted. Should an appeal be filed within the allotted 10 days, the PEB reconsiders its findings and forwards recommendations to the U.S. Army Physical Disability Agency for final disposition. If the USAPDA confirms or modifies the PEB findings and the soldier continues to nonconcur, the case is forwarded to the U.S. Army Physical Disability Appeal Board for final decision. Soldiers who continue to disagree with the findings may file petitions with the Army Board for the Correction of Military Records and, as a last resort, file suit in the Court of Federal Claims.

➤ Temporary or Permanent Disability?

Where a soldier is found unfit with a rating of at least 30 percent disability and the medical condition has not stabilized

for rating purposes, the soldier is placed on the Temporary Disability Retirement List with re-evaluation within 12 months or until the condition can be fairly rated. Placement on the TDRL cannot exceed five years. Soldiers who overcome their medical conditions may return to active duty from the TDRL status.

Where the unfit condition is stabilized and has a disability rating of at least a 30 percent, the soldier is permanently retired and placed on the Permanent Disability Retirement List. Disability ratings below 30 percent result in a lump-sum severance payment unless the soldier has completed 20 years of service and is retirement eligible, at which time retirement pay follows and a percentage of the pay is treated as disability compensation.

Soldiers discharged for disability may apply to the Department of Veterans Affairs for lifetime oversight to increase the ratings if their condition worsens. The agency cannot decrease the disability percentages awarded by the Army.

Soldiers being evaluated for a disability may also encounter the acronym “EPTS.” EPTS indicates that a medical condition existed prior to service but was not permanently aggravated by military duty and therefore the soldier is ineligible for disability benefits. “Presumption of Fitness” is a finding that a soldier is not entitled to benefits because a medical condition that otherwise could have been determined to make a soldier unfit did not preclude the performance of duty up to the time the soldier was processing for separation.

➤ Other Legal Considerations

The disability program has many complex aspects, that ranging from taxation to distribution of disability pay incident to divorce. People needing advice should seek help from their local legal-assistance attorneys.





The Corps Engages: Defending Baltimore

FROM the Civil War to the end of the 19th century the Corps of Engineers concentrated on river and harbor projects. Congress kept appropriations for seacoast fortifications small. But in 1898, on the eve of war with Spain, the Corps mobilized its civil works organization for defense.

In Baltimore, Md., one of the nation's major commercial centers at the time, the Corps hurriedly built gun emplacements for partially constructed batteries from the mouth of the Patapsco River to the city's Inner Harbor.

During the spring of 1898 crews worked double shifts pouring concrete and mounting guns to protect the harbor. By June the battery at North Point — at the confluence of the Patapsco and Chesapeake Bay — had eight platforms ready for 12-inch mortars. Close to the Inner Harbor the Corps mounted 8- and 12-inch guns at Hawkins Point and old Fort Carroll. They also placed mines in the water.

Fortunately, the Spanish fleet never got close enough to feel the effect of Baltimore's defenses. By July 1898 the Spanish military had been crushed, and in August the mines were detonated in a dramatic fireworks display. 🚩

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Office of History.



Photos courtesy National Archives

Unused mines are detonated in Baltimore's harbor.



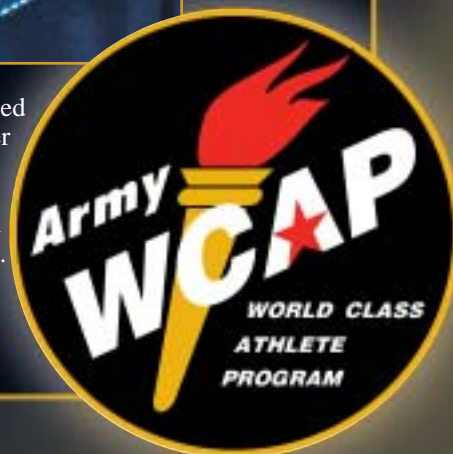
Hawkins Point during construction of gun emplacements in the spring of 1898 (with Baltimore harbor in the background).

FEMALE WRESTLING

PFC TINA GEORGE



PFC Tina George entered the Army in 2001. In 2002 she joined the World Class Athlete Program's wrestling team, won silver medals at the Women's Wrestling World Championships in Greece and the Pan Am Qualifier in Guatemala, gold medals from the University National Championships and U.S. World Team Trials, and was named Army female athlete of the year. This year, George won silver at the U.S. National Championships, and gold at the U.S. World Team Trials and the Pan American Games.



WCAP is one of 50 morale, welfare and recreation programs the Army provides soldiers and families worldwide through the U.S. Army Community & Family Support Center.